Re: RFA Support to LEA - Rations

From: "HAA MND@MND@Ottawa-Hull" <haa.mnd@forces.gc.ca>
To: "Eyre Gen WD@CDS@Ottawa-Hull" <wayne.eyre@forces.gc.ca>
Cc: "Power MD@MND@Ottawa-Hull" <michael.power4@forces.gc.ca>, "Matthews B@DM@Ottawa-Hull" <bill.matthews@forces.gc.ca>, "Quinn BGen DO@CDS@Ottawa-Hull" <darlene.quinn@forces.gc.ca>, "Hennessey R@DM@Ottawa-Hull" <riley.hennessey@forces.gc.ca>
Date: Fri, 18 Feb 2022 22:34:01 +0000

Dear Chief,

Thank you for this email. I am of the view that the test set out below has been met and, in particular, that the provision of assistance by the CAF is justified.

I ask also that you follow up with a more formal letter to ensure that the decision is memorialized.

Thank you.

Anita Anand

From: "Eyre Gen WD@CDS@Ottawa-Hull" <Wayne.Eyre@forces.gc.ca>
Date: February 18, 2022 at 12:40:23 PM EST
To: "HAA MND@MND@Ottawa-Hull" <HAA.MND@forces.gc.ca>, "Anand, Anita - Personal" <Irrelevant @parl.gc.ca>
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Subject: RFA Support to LEA - Rations

Minister

As you are aware, blockades by both persons and motor vehicles are occurring at various locations throughout Canada and are creating a serious risk of violence against persons or property, including critical infrastructure. The persons blockading these locations appear to have done so to protest various aspects of the Canadian response to COVID by all levels of government. Many of the blockades have impacted public infrastructure that is critical to the economy and the functioning of Canadian society. In many cases, law enforcement efforts to clear

these occupations require more resources than are available locally. The RCMP, as well as provincial and local forces, are supporting each other's efforts at numerous locations across the country. This poses a logistical challenge as police forces are moved around in support of each other and massed for operations. We expect that there is a potential for numerous short-notice requests from law enforcement agencies to Public Safety (PS) for Federal Government support to logistical challenges that the CAF could be requested to support. In fact we are expecting an imminent request along these lines at this time.

The first such specific RFA that has been received by PS is from the Parliamentary Protective Services (PPS), and involves the CAF provision of ration packs. PPS is planning for the possibility of a lockdown of the Parliamentary Precinct for operational reasons. Such a lock down would affect a large number of employees who would not be able to leave the premises. PPS is working rapidly to secure various supplies for its staff, and has approached other Federal partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for support. Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), through the National Emergency Strategic Stockpile (NESS), has confirmed their ability to provide cots, mattresses, blankets, and coffee-making equipment. However, the NESS does not store rations and the PPS has a requirement of up to 4,800 dry rations. The PPS has been able to meet some of this requirement through commercial purchases; however, another 1,200 dry rations (IMPs – Individual Meal Packs) are needed to ensure a sufficient supply. Due to the immediacy of the needs, the CAF have been identified as a force of last resort to fulfil the request and we expect an official RFA from PS shortly. Public Safety advised us this morning that Minister Public Safety will reach out to you seeking your support to assist PPS.

Under your authority as MND, you could approve this request for assistance under the national Defence Act subsection 273.6 (2) as Assistance in Respect to Law Enforcement Matters at the request of the Minister of Public safety should you determine:

(a) the assistance is in the national interest, and

(b) the matter cannot be effectively dealt with except with the assistance of the CAF.

If you agree that the test has been met and direct me to provide the requested assistance, I intend to issue orders to the CAF to provide

1,200 dry rations to PPS today. This will be done in a low profile manner, with civilian pattern delivery truck and outside the downtown core, so as not to put a CAF face on the current law enforcement activities.

Public Safety officials confirm that this assistance is in the national interest, and that the matter cannot be effectively dealt with except with the assistance of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The issues surrounding law enforcement have been carefully considered. At no time will CAF members be employed in a security or enforcement role.

For your approval, Minister.

V/R

Wayne

General/Général Wayne Eyre

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